Mass Schedule

Weekends:
Saturday  4:00 p.m.
Sunday   7:30 a.m.
         9:00 a.m. Family Mass
         11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays:
Mon. - Fri.  7:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)
Saturday  9:00 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)
Mon. – Fri. 12:00 NN (SMMC Chapel)
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Mass and Prayer Group
           (Rectory Chapel)

Holydays – As announced

Adoration and Holy Hour
First Wednesday of each month 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00 p.m.
Rosary 6:00 p.m. followed by Benediction and Mass

Parish Membership
All new families are welcome to the parish and are encouraged to become actively involved.
New parishioners should register at the Rectory as soon as possible.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY December 9, 2017
9:00 AM  Eric Paul Dube, Month’s Mind M.
4:00 PM  Frederick Gavriel, Healing Mass

SUNDAY December 10  Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM  Names of Deceased on All Souls Envelopes
9:00 AM  Pyne and Sullivan Families
11:30 AM Laurenco M. Valadao, Ann.
          Juvenalia V. Meneses, Ann.
5:00 PM  William and Monica Liston

MONDAY December 11, 2017  St. Damasus I, Pope
7:30 AM

TUESDAY December 12, 2017  OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
7:30 AM  Fr. Francis Ouellette, 8th Ann.

WEDNESDAY December 13  St. Lucy, Virgin/Martyr
7:30 AM

THURSDAY December 14  St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
7:30 AM  John/Mary O'Donnell, 20th Ann.
12:00 NN

FRIDAY December 15
7:30 AM
12:00 NN

SATURDAY December 16, 2017
9:00 AM
4:00 PM  The Kirwin/Sweeney Families

SUNDAY December 17  Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM  Names of Deceased on All Souls Envelopes
9:00 AM  Catherine, John, Louise Gleason
11:30 AM  Paul Conlon Cassidy, 1st Ann.
5:00 PM  Gertrude S. Shea, 1st Anniversary

---

November 25-26, 2017
Weekly Collection: $5,780.00
Building Fund: $3,529.00

---

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, and wedding engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news.

When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the good news?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most.

That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift.

As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us.

Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord.

The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to him, the more we will want to share about him.

We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to others might be the gift that changes their history.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
**DECEMBER 10, 2017**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL**
218 E. Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01852
978-454-5339 (Phone)
978-454-6293 (Fax)

**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**
December 11, Monday
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Grades 3-6 in cafeteria
at 6 PM
Students should wear Christmas colored clothing.

December 13, Wednesday
Advent Prayer Service 7:45 AM

December 14, Thursday
Banking Day
Mrs. Amanda’s Dance Recital
at 6 PM

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHRISTMAS FAIR**
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3, 2017 –8 am to 1 pm
More details to come next weekend.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**
Religious Education Calendar
2017-2018

Sunday Mornings 10:00-12 Noon at
Immaculate Conception School

December 10  Class #7
December 17  Class #8 MERRY CHRISTMAS

*****Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Friday, December 22nd 4:00 pm Upper Church

*****December 24th Christmas Eve 4:00 pm
Pageant Mass  Upper Church

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE THE
SCHEDULED DATES FOR THE YEAR.
The * indicates classes that will be held two Sundays
in a row due to vacations and holidays.

MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED
AT 7:30 AM
on the 10th and 17th of the month
of December
for all those whose names were written
on the All Souls envelopes on November 2nd.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHRISTMAS FAIR
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3, 2017 –8 am to 1 pm
More details to come next weekend.

**TOY DONATIONS**
We are looking for toy donations for our
CHRISTMAS FAIR.
Anything you can do would be appreciated.
All donations should be brought into the
School office by Friday, December 1st
or the school cafeteria no later
than Saturday, December 2nd
between 9 am and 1 pm
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Thanks to our Advertisers for their Support**
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL
OUR ARMED FORCES

Lance CPL James Bakanosky U.S. Marines AFGHANISTAN
Sgt. James R. Boudreau U.S. Army Newport, RI
Lance CPL Michael P. Crowley U.S. Marines-AFGHANISTAN
Corp. James Farley U.S. Marines Special Forces Mideast
Gunnery Sgt. Michael G. Hill U.S. Marines Fuji, Japan
1st Lt. Jeremy LaBranche U.S. Army...Fort Carson, CO
SPC Pieter Lobscher U.S. Army AFGHANISTAN
AST 3 Michael Linehan U.S. Coast Guard
A/C Emily McPhillips Air Force
Captain Ryan McKinley........Air Force MIDDLE EAST
Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens USAF MacDill AFB FL
Staff Sgt. John J. Rogers U.S. Army Fort Bliss, TX*

ADVENT GIVING TREE FOR BIRTHRIGHT
Every year our parish sponsors an Advent Giving Tree for Birthright
It is heartwarming to see the generosity of our parishioners who contribute to this worthy cause.
Your participation again this year will help The most vulnerable in our society.
New Baby Items are what we are looking for
To donate. Thank you in advance for your unselfishness.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM
St. Lucy Church, 254 Merrimack St., Methuen, MA
Gregory Norbet, formerly of Weston Priory,
A respected spiritual leader, composer, singer and Retreat director,
Some of his many compositions include “Hosea” (Come Back to Me) and “Wherever You Go”
As well as new settings for Morning/Evening Prayer.
Come join us as we begin a year of celebration for our 60th Anniversary as a Parish Faith Community!
For more info (978) 683-1193 Ext. 29

Adult Choir Practices
Tuesday evening 7:45 PM
Duration of practice: 45 minutes
For the Saturday 4 PM and/or Sunday 9 AM
All are invited and welcomed.

Stocking Stuffers

Thanks to the Women’s Guild our annual January Calendar Raffle 2018 will be offered to you after each Mass this month.
So, if you did not receive any in the mail please continue to support us by buying some then.
We sent out a mailing, but I was informed that some envelopes contained only 6 when they should have had 12 for the parishioners, you can purchase them at the rectory from Monday through Thursday 7 to 3 PM Friday 7 to 12 Noon, as well as after each Mass
Thank you again for your continued support, you will be happy to watch the elevator rise soon.

REMINDER
Sunday, December 17, 2017
7 PM TREE LIGHTING
150th ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF
in the front of our church followed by light refreshments in the Lower Church
SAN DAMIANO COMMUNITY

Come and Share in Contemplative Eucharist
At San Damiano House of Prayer, Lowell,
during the Advent season:
Be Still and Know that I am God.
You are invited to join us as we pray the liturgy
contemplatively with fewer words,
leaving more space for silence and stillness.
Together we will celebrate our waiting for God
to be born in our midst as we open our hearts
to the deep truth that God is already in our midst.
WHEN: Wed. Dec. 6, 13, and 20th @ 7 PM
PLACE: 333 Pawtucket St. Lowell
PRESIDER: Fr. Noman Comtois, OMI
OFFERING: Free will offering
CONTACT: Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF
978-441-0988
lgosf@netzero.net

*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

The Men of St. Joseph
Immaculate in Collaborative
meet on the fourth Saturday of every month.
Each monthly meeting includes prayer,
faith-building fellowship, and food.
SAVE THE DATE
December 30, 2017
beginning with the Rosary -
7:30 AM to 9:30 AM
in Immaculate Conception’s Upper Church

*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*.*

150th
Celebration
Immaculate Conception Parish

HOW IT ALL BEGAN
HIGHLIGHTS OF CHURCH BUILDING AND SPECIAL BLESSING CEREMONIES
Continuation

1878 The tower atop the church was constructed. The body of St. Verecunda was presented to the parish, with the ArchBishop presiding over the celebration honoring the presentation of the relics to the church on October 24.

1883 Blessing of the church bell held in the upper church, with the homily given by Bishop Healy of Portland, Maine.

1888 Magnificent marble altar added to the church, replacing the wooden one.

1889 Rectory constructed.

1892 Large lot on East Merrimack Street landscaped as “Columbus Park”.

1893 Stone statue of Mary, 8 ft. in height, weighing 1900 lbs, was hoisted into the niche near the top of the gable in the façade, at a ceremony on October 2.

1910 Church closed for extensive repairs to upper and lower church. The trusses and columns are replaced at this time.

1911 Church re-opened on October 29, the repairs having been completed.

1915 Ironwork fence added to church grounds.

1922 Golden Jubilee of Immaculate Conception celebrated.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.